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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

September 29, 2003

BY FACSIMILE
ORIGINAL BY U.S. MAIL

The Honorable Hector V. Barreto
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 Third Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Hector:

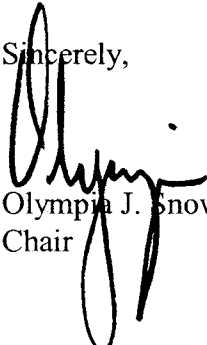
Thank you for responding so quickly to my concerns regarding the U.S. Export Assistance Centers (USEACs) program. I am pleased that the USEAC program can now move forward under its current agreement among the SBA, the U.S. Department of Commerce International Trade Administration and the Export Import Bank.

USEACs have proven to be a valuable resource for small exporters, and the SBA's participation in the program ensures that small businesses receive the counseling and training assistance they need to engage in the export of their products and services. We know that breaking into the trade game often seems impossible for small businesses, but your programs and services, especially those offered at the USEACS, do make it possible.

I look forward to working with you in the coming year to strengthen and improve the SBA International Trade programs that can be delivered through the USEACs, as well as provide greater support for the SBA field office personnel who deliver these programs to our small business owners.

Again, thank you for addressing this important issue.

Sincerely,



Olympia J. Snowe
Chair